

TAKE THE DANGER OUT OF YOUR PETS HALLOWEEN



Every October household around the country prepare for a rush of miniature witches and goblins begging for Halloween treats. This tradition is a favorite for youngsters. However, family pets may not find it as much fun. Halloween can be frightening and potentially dangerous time for pets.

Pets may be less disturbed by this haunting holiday if their owners follow these suggestions

- Excitable pets should be kept away from the door and out of hearing range of a constantly ringing doorbell. These pets should be put in a room where the noise and activity level is less disturbing. A frightened or upset pet may run out the door at the first opportunity and could bite the children in its way.
- Candy and treats should be kept out of the pet's reach. The sweet aroma from the candy is very enticing to animals. These sweets, especially chocolate, are not healthy for pets. Loaded with a substance called theobromine, chocolate can cause vomiting, restlessness, heart disturbances, or even death to the pet.
- Candy wrappers also can cause health problems. In their haste to devour candy, many animals may eat the wrapper as well. Wrapped candy may not dissolve and the wrapper could cause obstruction or irritation to the pet's digestive system.
- Taffy apples and suckers may seem harmless, but a swallowed stick could cause obstruction or perforate the stomach or bowels. Keep these away from pets.
- Dispose of rotten or poor-quality treats in hard-to-reach places.

The American Animals Hospital Association wants your pet to enjoy a safe and healthy Halloween. Avoid these hazards by keeping pets away from sweet treats and in a relaxed environment. If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate, or any other treat that is causing discomfort, consult your veterinarian immediately.

The Absecon Veterinary Hospital is an accredited hospital member of the American Animal Hospital Association, an international association of more than 22,000 veterinarians who treat companion animals. AAHA hospital members are regularly inspected to ensure they meet AAHA's high standards for pet care.